

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 were pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, and claim 3 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 3-7 are presented and at issue. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 2 – 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Layton, U.S. Patent No. 4,575,299 in view of Brightly Jr., U.S. Patent No. 2,536,720. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

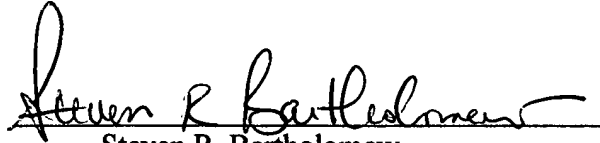
The Examiner objected to claims 3-7 as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 3-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Claims 4-7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 3. Thus, it is submitted that claims 3-7 are in allowable condition.

Summary

Based on the foregoing considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as set forth in claims 3-7 is clearly and patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, prompt and favorable action leading to allowance of the present application is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, concerns, comments, suggestions, or objections, she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate a resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven R. Bartholomew", written over a horizontal line.

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